EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.
205221

AMERICAN CHEMICAL SERVICES NPL SITE
GRIFFITH, INDIANA
SITE SUMMARY AS OF March 17, 1992

SITE HISTORY

The American Chemical Services NPL site was listed on the National Priorities List (NPL) in September 1984. The ACS site contains a RCRA "interim status" facility currently undergoing closure proceedings overseen by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. When it operated, the facility accepted various hazardous materials, primarily spent solvents, for distillation and eventual resale. The ACS site is composed of three landfilled areas: the "on-site containment area"; the "off-site containment area"; and the village of Griffith municipal landfill. The two containment areas contain numerous buried drums and sludges derived from ACS processes, and contain non-recyclable materials transported to ACS by its customers all during the period from 1955 until 1975. It is reported that the Village of Griffith landfill may have been used by ACS and others for the disposal of various hazardous substances. Other areas at the site include the Kapica Drum area (located outside the operating portion of the facility) and a buried still bottoms pond (located inside the operating facility). Kapica Drum encompasses approximately two acres and formerly housed a drum reclaiming operation which was known to discharge the contents of drums primarily taken from ACS, directly to the ground surface. This activity was known to be ongoing well into 1984. A consent order to perform a RI/FS was signed by approximately 150 former customers of ACS as potentially responsible parties (PRPs) on June 28, 1988. Site work began in late June 1989. The USEPA recently issued a RCRA complaint against ACS, which resulted in a Consent Decree ordering ACS to either comply with RCRA financial assurance regulations by early September 1990, or close the facility. As a result of the decree, ACS ceased accepting hazardous wastes as of September 5, 1990. ACS submitted their hazardous waste closure plan to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management on October 5, 1990 per the federal consent decree. The ACS facility closure plan is currently under review by IDEM. ACS is currently operating as a chemical production facility but can no longer accept hazardous waste materials.

CURRENT CLEANUP STATUS

Phase I of the RI was completed in early December 1989, with the submittal of technical memoranda to USEPA by the PRPs contractor. Phase I results showed highly contaminated soils in the Kapica Drum area, highly contaminated groundwater underlying most areas of the site, and large volumes of hazardous waste materials within the on-site and off-site containment areas. Phase II RI field work concentrated on determining the extent of groundwater contamination, sampling of residential wells, delineating the volume of highly toxic hazardous substances in the waste burial areas (e.g., PCBs), delineating site wetlands, delineating sediment and surface water contamination, and the extent of waste burial. A limited third phase of site work has also been completed. The purpose of the third phase was to delineate portions of the existing groundwater contamination at the site. Both deep aquifer and shallow aquifer wells were installed to ensure that contamination had not progressed to a large degree off-site. The results of Phase III groundwater analyses verify that the upper aquifer groundwater contamination has not progressed very far off-site, and that the lower aquifer groundwater contamination remains on-site. The RI Report, which is very near completion, will discuss the findings of Phases I, II and III. A RI Fact Sheet will be available to the public in the near future.

ENVIRONMENTAL SITUATION

Large tracts of wetlands border the site to the west, southwest, north, and east. Sediment samples have been taken to assess the impact the site has had on these areas. Two aquifers underlie the site, and are separated by a highly impermeable clay layer that averages 10 feet thick throughout. The upper aquifer, which averages 12 feet in thickness, is heavily contaminated with benzene, xylene, toluene, and chloroethane. Lesser concentrated substances in the upper aquifer include: methylene chloride, phenols, various semi-volatile compounds and trace PCBs near one source area. Upper aquifer groundwater appears to discharge to nearby wetland areas and surface water features, but the amount of environmental impact this presents will need further investigation. Data shows the lower aquifer to be contaminated on-site, however, no off-site contamination has been encountered. This has been verified by the sampling of on-site lower aquifer wells and residential wells screened in the deep aquifer near the site. Volume calculations on waste disposal areas reveal that approximately 65000 cubic yards of waste materials requiring remediation exist at the facility.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE

A first draft of the RI report was submitted on January 31, 1991. A revised version of the RI report, risk assessment, and ecological assessment were received in late June 1991. The FS report is currently under review. A final version of the RI report, risk assessment and ecological assessment will soon be available. A Record of Decision has been scheduled for the summer of 1992.

All dates are currently projected and do not account for unforseen site complexities.

PROJECT CONTACTS

U.S. EPA

Wayde M. Hartwick
Remedial Project Manager
Office of Superfund
U.S. EPA Region V
77 W. Jackson HSRL-6J
Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 886-7067

Steve Siegel
Assistant Regional Counsel
U.S. EPA Region V
Office of Regional Counsel
111 West Jackson 5CS
Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 353-1129

Karen Martin
Community Relations Coordinator
U.S. EPA Region V
Office of Public Affairs
77 W. Jackson P-19J
Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 886-6128

Steering Committee Members

Andrew Perellis, Esquire
Coffield, Ungaretti,
Harris & Slavin
3500 Three First National Plaza
Chicago, IL 60602
(312) 977-9227

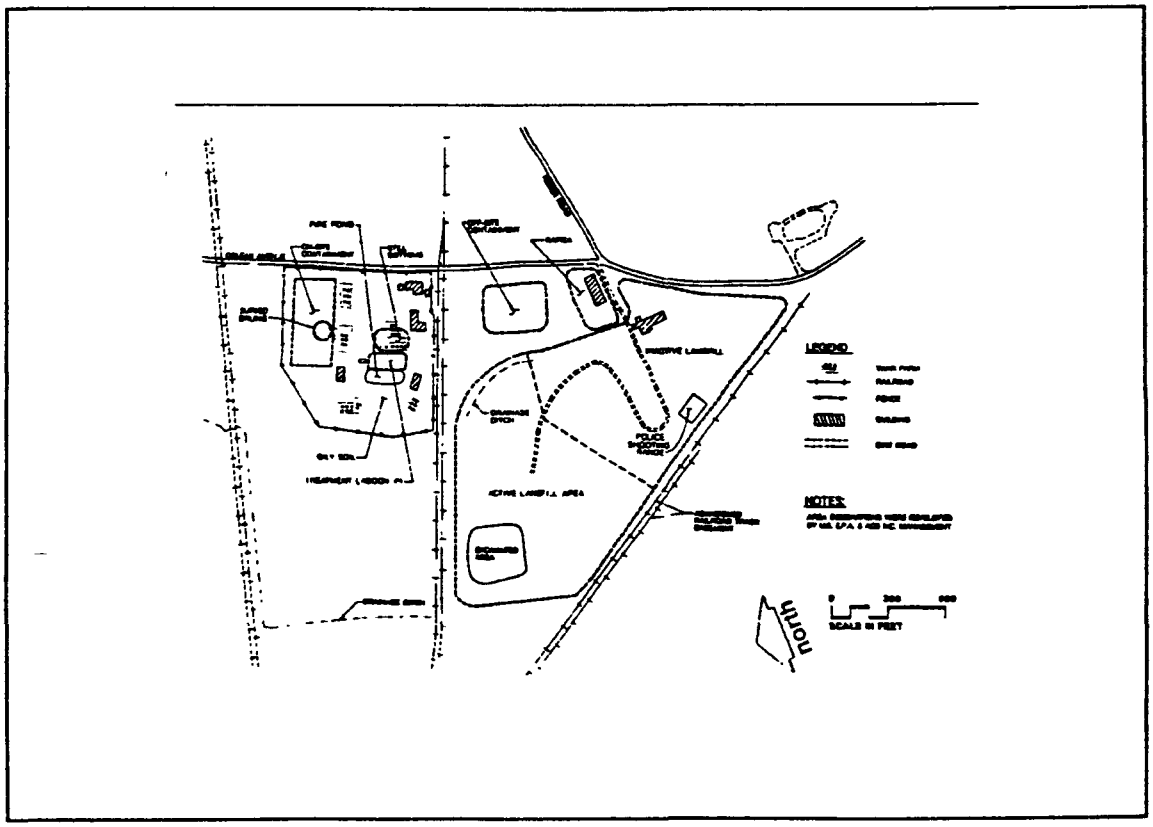
Maureen Grimmer, Esquire
Eichhorn, Eichhorn & Link
200 Russell Street
P.O. Box 6238
Hammond, Indiana 46325
(219) 931-0560

PRP Project Manager (RI)

Peter Vagt, PhD.
Warzyn Engineering Inc.
435 Devon Park Drive
Suite 702
Wayne, PA 19087
(215) 964-0808

PRP Project Manager (FS)

Joseph Adams Jr., P.E.
Warzyn Engineering, Inc.
2100 Corporate Drive
Addison, Illinois 60101



ACS LAYOUT

RESPONDENTS TO THE RI/FS CONSENT ORDER

3M Company
AMD Industries
American Chemical Service, Inc.
Abbott Labs
Acme Printing
Acme Steel
Adheron Coatings
Aigner Products
Allied Signal
Amerace Corp.
American National Can
American Roller Co.
Ashland Chemical
Ashland Petroleum
Atlas Electric Device
Auburn Diecast Corp.
Bagcraft Corp. of Am.
Ball Corp.
Baxter Healthcare
Bennett Industries
Borden, Inc.
Borg-Warner Corp.
Breuer Electric Mfg.
Breve Corp.
Brunswick Corp.
Burwood Products
C.P. Hall Co.
CSX Transportation
CTS Corp.
Ceco Corporation
Champion Internatl
Chase Products
Chicago Adhesive
Chicago Loop Auto-
Refinishing Inc.
Chicago Rotoprint
Coca-Cola Foods
Continental Can
Cudner & O'Connor Co
DAP, Inc.
Daubert Chemical Co.
DeMert & Dougherty
Denniston, Ltd.
DeSoto, Inc.
Dietzgen Corp.
DiversiTech General
Dixline Corporation
Dow Chemical Corporation (on its own behalf and for J.W. Mortell)
Dreeblan Paint Co.
E.I. DuPont
Eli Lilly & Company
Ericsson Inc.
Exacto Products
Federal Paper Board
Flint Ink Corp.
Fort Dearborn-
Lithograph
Freeman Chemical
G.D. Searle & Co.
G.J. Nikolas and Co., Inc.
GCA Corp
Gast Manufacturing
General Am.Trnsprtn
General Electric
General Motors
Glidden Company
Graham Paint and Varnish Co., Inc.
Great Lakes Terminal Trnsprt Corp.
Town of Griffith, Indiana
Grow Group, Inc. (on behalf of Martin Varnish)
Hitco
Hugh J. McLaughlin
Hydrite Chemical
Hydrosol, Inc.
Illinois Bronze Paint
Industrial Coatings
Insilco Corp.
Intl Minerals &Chem
International Shoe
J.T. Clark
James River Corp.
John Crane, Inc.
John L. Kapica
KMS Companies
Kencote Laminations
Kewanee Industries, Inc. for Fermco Laboratories
Knowles Electronics
Lake Salvage, Inc.
Littlefuse, Inc.
Lockformer, Co.
Mallinckrodt, Inc.
Manta Vincor Steel
Martin Marietta Corp.
Matthews Paint Co.
Methode Electronics
Midland Div of Dexter Milton Bradley Co.
Mobil Oil Corp.
Mortell Co.
Morton Thiokol
Motorola, Inc.
National Lacquer and Paint Company
Niles Chemical Paint
Nutrasweet Co.
O'Brien Corp.
Occidental Chemical
Owens-Corning Fiberglass
PPG Industries
Packaging Corp of Am Packard Instrument
Peacock Colors, Inc.
Pelron Corp.
Phillips & Martin
Pioneer Paint Prdcts
Plicon Corp.
Pratt & Lambert
Precision Brand Prdts
Premier Coatings Inc.
Primerica Corp.
R.R. Donnelly & Sons
Redson Rice Corp.
Refiners Trnspt Reichold Chemicals
Reliable Paste & Chem
Revere Copper & Brass
Rheem Manufacturing
Rogers Cartage Co.
Rollprint Packaging
Roy Strom Refuse Removal Service, Inc
Rust-oleum Corp.
S.C. Johnson & Son
Safety Kleen
St. Clair Mfg. Co.
Sherwin Williams Co.
Sinclair & Valentine
Smith Victor Corp.
Standard T. Chemical
Starcraft Co.
Stepan Company
Sterling Engrd Prdcts
Stuart Indstrl Coatng
Sullivan Varnish
T.L. Swint Indstr
Technical Products
Teepak, Inc.
Teledyne Post
Texaco Inc.
Thiele-Engdahl
Tingstol Co.
USX Corp.
United Technologies (on behalf of Sheller-Globe Corp.)
Union Carbide
Union Oil
Union Tank Car
Uniroyal Plastics
United Technolgies
V.J. Dolan
Valspar
Varn Products
Velsicol Chem.
W.C. Richards Co.
Western Publishing
Westinghouse Electric
Whirlpool Corp.
Whiteco Industries
Witco Chemical
Worum Fiberglass Supply
Zenith Electronics